

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KABUL 05746 180508Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 EB-08 TRSE-00 /091 W
-----076764 180513Z /17

R 180330Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4041
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USUN NEW YORK 651
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 5746

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, AF, US, IR, UR, PK
SUBJECT: DAOUD'S FOURTH YEAR: LEGITIMATION AND CONSOLIDATION

REF: KABUL 5531

1. LEGITIMATION AND CONSOLIDATION WERE THE DOMESTIC THEMES OF THE FOURTH YEAR OF PRESIDENT MOHAMMAD DAOUD'S AFGHAN REPUBLIC. A NEW CONSTITUTION WAS ADOPTED AND DAOUD WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT BY THE TRADITIONAL AFGHAN NATIONAL CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. MARTIAL LAW AND THE MYSTERIOUS CENTRAL COMMITTEE WHICH HAD OPERATED SINCE THE JULY, 1973 COUP WERE ABOLISHED. A SEVEN-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN WAS ADOPTED TO CHART THE FUTURE ECONOMIC COURSE OF THE COUNTRY.

2. IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS TOO, STEADY PROGRESS WAS MADE ALONG
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KABUL 05746 180508Z

THE COURSE SET IN THE PREVIOUS THREE YEARS. THE BYWORDS ARE NATIONALISM, INDEPENDENCE AND NON-ALIGNMENT, AND ARE REFLECTED IN DAOUD'S REBUFFS TO LEFT AND RIGHT-WING GROUPS WITHIN AFGHAN-ISTAN. RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION CONTINUED TO REFLECT CLOSE AFGHAN GEOGRAPHIC, ECONOMIC, AND MILITARY TIES WITH THAT COUNTRY. RELATIONS WITH IRAN AND PAKISTAN, ALTHOUGH ALWAYS FRAGILE AND SPORADICALLY DISTURBED, WERE REMARKABLY GOOD.

3. ALL OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS ACCORD WELL WITH U.S. INTERESTS IN AFGHAN INDEPENDENCE AND DEVELOPMENT AND IN REGIONAL STABILITY.

4. BUT THERE ARE NO CAUSES FOR COMPLACENCY. DAOUD HAS ONLY BEGUN TO ESTABLISH A NEW POLITICAL SYSTEM, TO BE BASED ON GREATER POPULAR PARTICIPATION AND LESS CONTROL BY THE HITHERTO RULING MOHAMMADZAI FAMILY. MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE, INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL REVOLUTION PARTY CALLED FOR BY THE CONSTITUTION, THE APPOINTMENT OF ONE OR MORE VICE PRESIDENTS, AND THE PREPARATION OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR 1979. BEYOND THESE SPECIFIC JOBS, DAOUD HAS SET FOR HIMSELF THE ENORMOUS TASK OF REVAMPING, FROM ROYAL TO REPUBLICAN, THE AFGHAN POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY. THE UNDERLYING QUESTION IS WHETHER, AT 68, HE HAS TIME TO SET AFGHANISTAN FIRMLY ON ITS NEW COURSE. ANY SUDDEN DEPARTURE OF DAOUD FROM THE SCENE COULD PLUNGE AFGHANISTAN INTO A PERIOD OF CHAOS INIMICAL TO OUR BASIC INTERESTS. THERE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE ANY EFFECTIVE ORGANIZED OPPOSITION IN EXISTENCE AT THE MOMENT, BUT 68 IS OLD FOR AN AFGHAN, AND ASSASSINATION IS NOT UNHEARD OF IN AFGHANISTAN. IT IS ALSO NOT AT ALL CLEAR WHO IS IN LINE TO SUCCEED DAOUD.

5. SIMILARLY ON THE ECONOMIC SCENE, NOT ONLY DOES MUCH REMAIN TO BE DONE TO GET THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM MOVING, BUT A SHORT-AGE OF PRECIPITATION IN NORTHERN AFGHANISTAN LAST WINTER AND

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KABL 05746 180508Z

SPRING, IF REPEATED NEXT YEAR, COULD HAVE DISASTROUS EFFECTS. ALSO, IRANIAN AID HAS NOT LIVED UP TO AFGHAN EXPECTATIONS, AND THE SHORTFALL WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT MANY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. AGAIN, UNDERLYING DOUBTS ABOUT THE PERMANENCE OF DAOUD'S POLITICAL SYSTEM ALSO AFFECT THE ECONOMY BY SAPPING THE CONFIDENCE OF POTENTIAL PRIVATE INVESTORS.

6. IN SUM, ASSUMING DAOUD STAYS HEALTHY, THE FIFTH YEAR OF THE AFGHAN REPUBLIC SHOULD SEE FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARD THE GOALS HE HAS SET. AND THESE GOALS GENERALLY ACCORD WITH OUR INTERESTS. BUT THERE ARE MAJOR UNCERTAINTIES IN THE SITUATION, AND THE BIGGEST ONE IS THE ASSUMPTION ABOUT DAOUD'S HEALTH. FULL ANALYSIS BEING POUCHED VIA AIRGRAM.

ELIOT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, GOVERNMENT REFORM, CONSTITUTION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KABUL05746
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770298-0832
Format: TEL
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770850/aaaabpni.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 70a21759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 KABUL 5531
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1567562
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DAOUD\S FOURTH YEAR: LEGITIMATION AND CONSOLIDATION
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PDEV, AF, US, IR, UR, PK, NATIONAL REVOLUTION PARTY, (DAOUD, MOHAMMAD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/70a21759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009